

ABSTRACT**POLYMERS AND POLYMERISATION PROCESSES**

Emulsion polymerisations are described in which the monomers include an ethylenically unsaturated ammonium phosphate ester monomer.

- 5 The processes may be conducted with high total solids, to produce a polymer latex having a solids content in the range 20 to 60%, for instance in the range 25 to 50% by weight. Preferably comonomers include lower alkyl and higher alkyl methacrylate selected to give desirable glass transition temperatures and coalescing films, zwitterionic comonomers,
- 10 polyethoxylated comonomers to confer desired biocompatibility and latex stability as well as good wetting for a film formed of the polymer and may contain crosslinking monomers, reactive monomers, anionic monomers and/or cationic monomers. The latexes are stable, even when the process is carried out in the substantial absence of non-polymerisable emulsifier.
- 15 Coatings formed from the latexes containing zwitterionic comonomer have good biocompatibilising properties.

0998721-11501